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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:JLEBOURGEOIS
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY
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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JM
SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ELECTIONS
REF: KINGSTON 4585, KINGSTON 4796

1. UPON RECEIPT OF KINGSTON 4585 A/ISO (DAS FRANCIS) CONTACTED THE THREE U.S. COMPANIES TO WHICH THE ELECTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EAC) HAD WRITTEN ABOUT THE HIGH-SPEED PRINTING OF VOTER LISTS. THE LETTERS FROM CHAIRMAN MILLS ARRIVED AT THE COMPANIES DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 23. FRANCIS WAS ABLE TO VERIFY THAT TWO OF THE COMPANIES (GULF STREAM PRESS AND ACE PARKER) WERE UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THE PROJECT AS DESCRIBED BY MILLS. MR. TERRY DRUMMOND OF DANIELS PRINTING AND OFFSET TOLD FRANCIS HIS COMPANY COULD ACCEPT THE PROJECT FOR COMPLETION WITHIN FOUR MONTHS FOR A PRICE OF 250,000 DOLLARS. HALF OF THAT TIME WOULD BE

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NEEDED SIMPLY TO ACQUIRE THE 11" BY 7/8" PAPER SPECIFIED BY MILLS. DRUMMOND SUGGESTED THAT BY USING 8 1/2" BY 11" PAPER (PAID IN ADVANCE) AND BY SUB-CONTRACTING PART OF JOB TO SEVERAL OTHER FIRMS IN MIAMI AREA, HE COULD REDUCE TURNAROUND TIME TO NO MORE THAN TWO WEEKS.

2. SINCE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE COPY OF MILLS' LETTER AND SINCE SPECIFICATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN APPEARED TO CONFUSE PRINT FIRMS, SUGGEST THAT MILLS TALK DIRECTLY TO DRUMMOND TO RESOLVE OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

3. IN MEANTIME DEPARTMENT WILL SEEK TO IDENTIFY ON A PRIORITY BASIS ADDITIONAL U.S. COMPANIES THAT WOULD BE ABLE AND WILLING TO UNDERTAKE THE PRINTING OF THE VOTER LISTS. AFTER IDENTIFYING SUCH COMPANIES, WE WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THEM FOR PASSING TO THE EAC. AT THAT POINT, WE RECOMMEND THE EAC CALL THE COMPANIES IN ADDITION TO WRITING FOLLOW-UP PROPOSALS. DEPARTMENT WOULD SUPPORT DIRECTLY WITH COMPANIES PROPOSALS MADE BY THE EAC AND FACILITATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE

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COMPANIES AND THE EAC.

4. EMBASSY MAY SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH THE EAC AND EXPRESS OUR INTEREST IN AND COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. MUSKIE

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